

# Statistics Weekly

**Thursday, 2 December 1993**

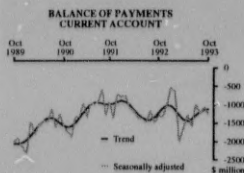
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Acting Australian Statistician



*statistics*



## Trade surplus puts brake on higher current account deficit

The provisional trend estimate for the October current account deficit was \$1 122 million, down \$9 million (1%) on the provisional trend estimate for September. This is the fifth successive monthly fall and the lowest monthly trend estimate of the deficit since January 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, Australia's current account deficit for October 1993 rose \$180 million (17%) to \$1 257 million.

The increase in the deficit was caused by:

- ☐ an increase of \$39 million (33%) in the net services deficit;
- ☐ an increase of \$173 million (16%) in the net income deficit; and
- ☐ a decrease of \$16 million (84%) in the net unrequited transfers surplus.

Partly offsetting the movements in services, income and unrequited transfers was an increase of \$48 million (44%) in the merchandise trade surplus (merchandise exports fell 3% while merchandise imports fell 4%).

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS  
CURRENT ACCOUNT**  
\$ million

	September 1993		October 1993	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	- 208	110	203	158
Net services	- 338	- 120	- 183	- 159
Balance on goods and services	- 546	- 10	20	- 1
Net income	- 1 092	- 1 086	- 1 237	- 1 259
Net unrequited transfers	45	19	33	3
Balance on current account	- 1 593	- 1 077	- 1 184	- 1 257

Merchandise exports in original terms rose \$273 million, or 5 per cent, to \$5 765 million.

Rural exports rose \$212 million, or 15 per cent, to \$1 647 million. Increases were recorded in all groups. The largest increases occurred in:

- ☐ wool, up \$65 million or 28 per cent;
- ☐ 'other' rural exports, up \$65 million or 13 per cent; and
- ☐ meat, up \$37 million or 10 per cent.

Non-rural exports in original terms rose \$61 million, or 2 per cent, to \$4 118 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- coal, coke and briquettes, up \$155 million or 28 per cent;
- 'other' metals, up \$76 million or 19 per cent; and
- transport equipment, up \$70 million or 50 per cent.

The most significant decreases were recorded in gold, down \$170 million or 23 per cent; and metal ores and minerals, down \$89 million or 12 per cent.

Merchandise imports in original terms fell \$138 million, or 2 per cent, to \$5 562 million. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- 'other' transport equipment, down \$145 million or 63 per cent;
- fuels, down \$43 million or 13 per cent;
- 'other' imports, down \$37 million or 13 per cent; and
- chemicals, down \$30 million or 5 per cent.

The largest increases occurred in road vehicles, up \$115 million or 22 per cent and civil aircraft, up \$49 million.

In the four months to October 1993 the total current account deficit (in original terms) was \$5 791 million, a decrease of 12 per cent on the same period of the previous financial year.

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0), or contact Marie Flint on (06) 252 5540 or Peter Morrow on (06) 252 6689.

## Modest growth continues in September quarter

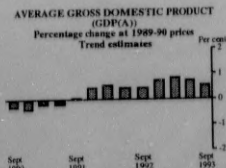
The trend estimate of GDP(A), the average of the three independent measures of Gross Domestic Product, rose 0.6 per cent in the September quarter.

The increase in GDP(A) is attributable to rises in the trend estimates of all three components, namely the income-based measure GDP(I) up 0.7 per cent, the expenditure-based measure GDP(E) up 0.3 per cent and the production-based measure GDP(P) up 0.3 per cent (see below for details).

The growth in trend GDP(A) follows a slightly higher 0.8 per cent growth in the June quarter. Trend GDP(A) was 3.2 per cent above the level of one year earlier, with each of the other measures showing similar growth over the year.

The seasonally adjusted constant price estimate for GDP(A) recorded lower growth than the trend estimate in the September quarter. Seasonally adjusted GDP(A) was up 0.4 per cent, due to increases of 0.7 per cent in GDP(I), 0.2 per cent in GDP(E) and 0.5 per cent in GDP(P).

*Continued ..*



(In the remainder of this article, analysis is based on trend constant price estimates unless otherwise stated.)

**MAIN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE-BASED NATIONAL ACCOUNTS  
AGGREGATES AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1993**  
Percentage change in trend estimates

	<i>From previous quarter</i>	<i>From corresponding quarter of previous year</i>
Final consumption expenditure		
Private	0.6	2.1
Government	0.1	4.0
Gross fixed capital expenditure		
Private	-0.9	0.7
Public	1.7	4.9
Gross national expenditure	0.3	2.7
Exports of goods and services	1.6	6.4
Imports of goods and services	1.8	4.9
Gross domestic product (E)	0.3	3.1
Gross domestic product (I)	0.7	3.3

### Income-based GDP — up 0.7 per cent

### Expenditure-based GDP — up 0.3 per cent

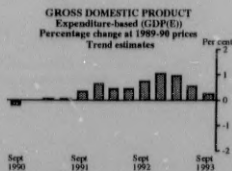
The latest increase in trend estimates of GDP(E) featured:

- ☐ modest growth in private final consumption expenditure;
- ☐ the eighth successive increase in private capital expenditure on dwellings (up 1.4%);
- ☐ business investment down 2.2 per cent;
- ☐ public investment up 1.7 per cent; and
- ☐ a build-up in private non-farm stocks.

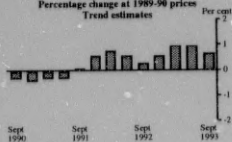
Trend private final consumption expenditure rose 0.6 per cent to be 2.1 per cent higher than in the September quarter 1992. Health and dwelling rent were the major contributors to growth. Seasonally adjusted growth was lower at 0.4 per cent, with services components being the main contributors to this growth.

The trend estimates for total gross fixed capital expenditure were down marginally by 0.2 per cent in the September quarter 1993. The private sector fall of 0.9 per cent was almost offset by a 1.7 per cent rise for the public sector. Private dwellings were up 1.4 per cent, the eighth consecutive rise. Private equipment fell 2.7 per cent and non-dwelling construction dropped 1.3 per cent in the September quarter.

Trend public gross fixed capital expenditure increased 1.7 per cent in the September quarter 1993 with public enterprises up 3.0 per cent and general government up 0.2 per cent.



**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**  
Income-based (GDP(I))  
Percentage change at 1989-90 prices  
Trend estimates



The trend estimates for private non-farm stocks increased by \$255 million in the September quarter following a large seasonally adjusted rise of \$513 million in this aggregate in the June quarter and a further increase of \$158 million in the September quarter. These were the first significant increases in seasonally adjusted private non-farm stocks since March quarter 1990.

Exports of goods and services increased 1.6 per cent, while imports of goods and services rose 1.8 per cent in the September quarter.

The stocks to sales ratio, derived from trend data, remained virtually unchanged in the September quarter (0.907 in the June quarter, 0.908 in the September quarter). The trend imports to sales ratio continued rising to reach a record high of 0.231 in the September quarter from 0.226 in the June quarter 1993.

Australia's terms of trade continued to decline falling 0.8 per cent from 88.0 in the June quarter 1993 to 87.3 in the September quarter. The implicit price deflator for imports of goods and services increased by 0.9 per cent, while that for exports of goods and services increased by only 0.1 per cent.

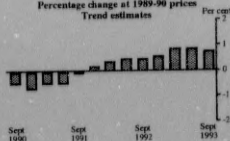
### Income components at current prices

Wages, salaries and supplements rose 1.1 per cent in the September quarter 1993, reflecting rises of 0.8 per cent in the underlying average earnings and 0.3 per cent in the number of wage and salary earners. Gross operating surplus of private corporate trading enterprises rose 2.4 per cent, following rises of 3.5 per cent and 3.0 per cent in the March and June quarters 1993 respectively.

### Production-based GDP — trend up by 0.8 per cent

The trend estimate of production-based gross domestic product, GDP(P), increased by 0.8 per cent in the September quarter 1993. GDP(P) has now recorded sustained growth since the December quarter 1991. Continuing the pattern over the past few quarters, growth in the September quarter was widespread — with 11 of the 14 industry groups showing increases.

**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT**  
Production-based (GDP(P))  
Percentage change at 1989-90 prices  
Trend estimates



Details of the more noteworthy changes in industry trend estimates for the September quarter 1993 are:

- ☐ Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting declined by 0.7 per cent. This largely reflects a decline in the farm sector where increased crop production was more than offset by a fall in wool production.
- ☐ Mining increased by 1.3 per cent. Production has picked up in the last two quarters following a short period of decline in late 1992. Oil and gas and iron ore have been the major contributors to recent growth.
- ☐ Manufacturing continued to grow, registering an increase of 1.2 per cent this quarter, the sixth in succession after a long period of decline. Since the September quarter of 1992, manufacturing has grown by 6.1 per cent. The sectors which contributed most to the increase this quarter were food, basic metal products and transport equipment.

- ☐ Construction has now recorded growth in each of the last five quarters, the last being 0.5 per cent in the September quarter. Dwelling construction is largely responsible for this growth.
- ☐ Wholesale trade increased by 1.0 per cent this quarter while retail trade fell by 0.1 per cent.
- ☐ Transport and storage showed no change this quarter but has grown by 4.0 per cent since the September quarter 1992. This is largely due to significant growth in the rail, water and air transport sectors.
- ☐ Communication increased this quarter by 0.5 per cent. Since the September quarter 1992 this industry has grown by 4.3 per cent.
- ☐ Recreation, personal and other services recorded a rise of 0.9 per cent. Growth was strongest in the entertainment and recreational services sector which increased by 1.4 per cent. The restaurants, hotels, clubs and personal services sector increased by 0.7 per cent.

The trend estimate of labour productivity (constant price gross product per hour worked) in the market sector rose in the September quarter by 0.9 per cent. Since the December quarter 1990, labour productivity (in the market sector) has increased by 5.2 per cent.

**GROSS PRODUCT, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1993**  
Trend estimates at average 1989-90 prices

	Gross product (\$ million)	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Manufacturing	14 761	1.2	6.1
Finance, property and business services	11 364	0.4	0.8
Community services	11 431	1.7	4.3
Retail	8 924	-0.1	0.5
Wholesale	7 242	1.0	0.9
Construction	6 712	0.5	7.0
Transport and storage	4 745	0.0	4.0
Mining	4 361	1.3	1.7
Recreation, personal and other services	4 148	0.9	3.4
Agriculture, etc.	3 944	-0.7	-0.1
Public administration and defence	3 516	0.0	-0.1
Electricity, gas and water	3 129	0.6	3.2
Communication	2 449	0.5	4.3
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	8 285	1.3	4.7
Gross domestic product (GDP(P))	95 011	0.8	3.1

For further information, order the publication *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (5206.0)*, or contact Joe Jackson on (06) 252 6708 concerning constant price expenditure estimates or Paul Curran on (06) 252 6801 concerning constant price industry estimates.

## Profits growth remains strong

The provisional trend estimate for company profits before income tax was \$4 982 million for the September quarter, a rise of 5 per cent over the revised June 1993 quarter. This provisional estimate is now at the highest level since the series began in September 1983.

After two quarters of zero growth the mining sector recorded an increase of 3 per cent. The manufacturing sector has shown an increase in profits for the ninth consecutive quarter, recording a rise of 8 per cent.

For the second consecutive quarter the retail sector recorded a fall of 12 per cent.

COMPANY PROFITS, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1993  
Trend estimate

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From June quarter 1993	From September quarter 1992
Mining	1 394	3	4
Manufacturing	2 470	8	41
Wholesale trade	444	2	24
Retail trade	283	-12	-9
Total (including other selected industries)	4 488	5	28

For further information, order the publication *Company Profits, Australia* (5651.0), or contact Ross Upson on (06) 252 5617.

## New vehicle registrations down slightly again

The October 1993 trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations recorded its fourth straight fall of less than 1.0 per cent. Trend registrations have now returned to the level (at around 44 900 per month) which had prevailed for about 18 months before a slight upward movement in mid-1993. Passenger and 'other' vehicles both recorded falls in October.

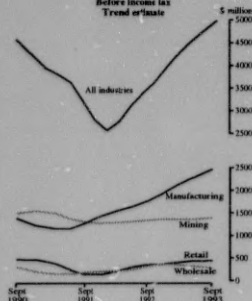
In seasonally adjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for October 1993 rose by 15.5 per cent from September 1993.

In unadjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for October 1993 rose by 5.1 per cent, from 42 546 vehicles in September to 44 699 vehicles. Passenger vehicles rose by 4.2 per cent, from 35 681 to 37 173 vehicles with 'other' vehicles recording a rise of 9.6 per cent, from 6 865 vehicles to 7 526 for October.

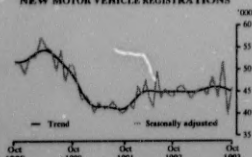
Falls were recorded in South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

For further information, order the publication *New Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia, Preliminary* (9301.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

COMPANY PROFITS  
Before income tax  
Trend estimate



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



## Manufacturing production in October

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-three with up-to-date trend estimates). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten Manufacturing Production Bulletins.

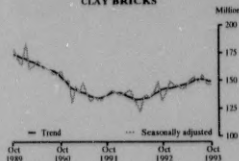
In the table below, sixteen items are showing an increase in trend over production levels twelve months earlier. However, of these sixteen, only six are showing current trend production growth to October 1993, while for a further four items, current trend production is flat. The clay bricks production trend has fallen slightly over the last two months after showing a steady rise since May 1992, while the portland cement production has a declining trend since May 1993 after showing quite strong growth from its last trough in September 1992. Electric motors production appears to be levelling off after falling quite strongly from its last peak in March 1993. Production of both iron and steel in ingot form and basic iron products are declining to October 1993 while the trend production of cars and station wagons has shown weak growth now for the last four months.

The two comparisons shown below should be read together to indicate both longer term trends and current trend direction. Reference should also be made to more detailed data presented in the quarterly publications.

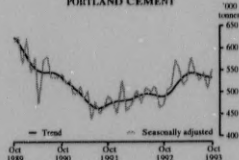
MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, OCTOBER 1993  
Percentage change in trend

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Domestic clothes washing machines	3.2	20.0
Particle board and similar boards	-0.2	14.4
Cotton yarn	-2.2	14.0
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	-0.2	12.7
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	-1.1	10.5
Portland cement	-0.4	8.6
Plastics in primary forms	0.6	6.5
Cars and station wagons	0.8	6.0
Clay bricks	-0.5	5.5
Television sets	1.9	5.1
Textile floor coverings	1.3	3.8
Cigarettes and tobacco	-0.2	2.9
Wool yarn	-0.5	2.7
Chocolate based confectionery	0.6	2.0
Woven man-made fibre fabric	-1.3	1.4
Electricity	0.0	1.1
Beer	-1.2	-2.4
Gas available for issue through mains	0.4	-2.5
Electric motors	-0.8	-4.2
Sulphuric acid; oleum	1.4	-6.4
Other confectionery	-1.1	-8.7
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	-1.5	-7.8
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-2.4	-40.0

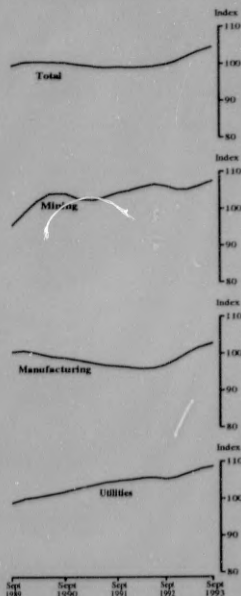
CLAY BRICKS



PORTLAND CEMENT



**INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION**  
Trend estimates at average 1989-90 prices



## Industrial production picks up

The trend estimate of industrial production rose in the September quarter 1993 for the seventh successive quarter. The rate of growth picked up over the last four quarters following a fairly stagnant period since early 1989.

The industrial production trend grew by 1.2 per cent in the September quarter, following growth of 1.4 per cent in the June quarter and 1.3 per cent in the March quarter. It is now 4.8 per cent above the September quarter 1992 estimate.

The 'industrial sector' covers mining, manufacturing, and utilities (electricity, gas and water), but is dominated by movements in the manufacturing industry. All three of the component series, mining, manufacturing and utilities, showed trend growth in the latest two quarters.

**INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES**  
Trend estimates, September quarter 1993  
Percentage change

	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Mining (excluding services to mining)	1.2	1.3
Manufacturing	1.2	6.1
Electricity, gas and water	0.6	3.2
Total industrial production	1.2	4.8

The trend in the index of manufacturing production grew in the September quarter 1993 for the sixth consecutive quarter, and confirms a recovery from the turning point in the March quarter 1992.

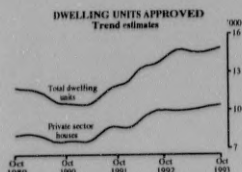
Within the manufacturing industry growth in the trend of gross product over recent quarters has been shown by: food, beverages and tobacco; clothing and footwear; chemical, petroleum and coal products; non-metallic mineral products; basic metal products; fabricated metal products; transport equipment, and miscellaneous manufacturing. For textiles and other machinery and equipment the trend in production has fallen, while for wood, wood products and furniture and paper, printing and publishing, the trend remains flat.

The trend in the index of mining production has grown slightly over the last two quarters following a weak decline. The mining index is now 1.3 per cent above its level of September 1992.

Utilities continued their recent trend of weak growth in the September quarter 1993, with gross product up 0.6 per cent following 1 per cent growth in each of the previous two quarters.

## Home building approvals maintain slow growth through October

### Number of dwelling units approved



The provisional trend for the total number of dwelling units approved continues to show weak growth to October 1993. Apart from a short period of decline between February and May 1993, the trend in dwelling unit approvals has now been rising for 32 months from the trough in February 1991. The trend rose by 0.5 per cent in October to 14 870 dwelling unit approvals, following growth of 0.6 per cent in September and 0.6 per cent in August 1993. There would need to be a decline in the seasonally adjusted number of dwelling units approved of 5 per cent (slightly more than the historical average monthly movement of 4%) in November for the trend to flatten.

The provisional trend for the number of private sector house approvals continues the growth evident in the series since January 1993, but the rate of growth is slowing. The trend rose by 0.3 per cent in October 1993 to 10 401, following growth of 0.4 per cent in September and 0.6 per cent in August.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, OCTOBER 1993

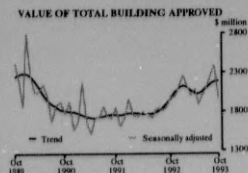
DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, OCTOBER 1995			
	Number	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses			
Trend estimate	10 401	0.3	4.0
Seasonally adjusted	10 159	-3.1	2.3
Original	10 435	-6.3	-2.5
Total dwelling units			
Trend estimate	14 870	0.5	6.1
Seasonally adjusted	14 915	0.2	6.7
Original	14 622	-7.1	1.6

In seasonally adjusted terms, the total number of dwelling units approved rose marginally by 0.2 per cent in October, following a 2.3 per cent rise in September. The number of private sector house approvals fell by 3.1 per cent in October, following four consecutive monthly increases.

### Value of building approved

Despite a 17.5 per cent fall in the seasonally adjusted series, the provisional trend estimates for the value of total building approved continued to grow to October 1993. The revised trend rose by 0.7 per cent in October following a 1.4 per cent rise in September and a 2.1 per cent rise in August 1993. There would need to be a further fall of over 7 per cent in the seasonally adjusted value of total building approved in November 1993 for the trend to level out. The historical average monthly movement of this series, regardless of sign, is 9 per cent.

*Continued ...*



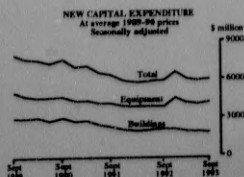
The provisional trend series for the value of new residential building approved continues to show growth from May 1993, rising by 0.9 per cent in October, following growth of 1.2 per cent and 1.6 per cent in the previous two months. This growth will continue unless there is a fall of over 5 per cent (equivalent to the historical average monthly movement) in the seasonally adjusted series in November 1993.

As a result of a 45 per cent decrease in the seasonally adjusted value of non-residential building approved in October 1993, the recent trend estimates have been substantially revised. The provisional trend series, which had been showing strong growth to September, has almost flattened out in October. There would need to be an increase of 47 per cent in the seasonally adjusted series in November, almost three times the historical average monthly movement, to prevent the trend from turning down. Because of the volatile nature of the series, readers should treat the latest observations of this trend with caution.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, OCTOBER 1993

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
New residential building			
Trend	1 257.0	0.9	8.3
Seasonally adjusted	1 241.4	-2.6	10.0
Original	1 207.6	-9.3	4.7
Non-residential building			
Trend	756.4	0.5	19.9
Seasonally adjusted	529.9	-44.6	-21.4
Original	618.5	-33.0	-21.2
Total building			
Trend	2 192.4	0.7	11.4
Seasonally adjusted	1 970.8	-17.5	-0.7
Original	2 021.1	-18.4	-4.9

For further information, order the publication *Building Approvals, Australia* (8731.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.



## Investment levels remain steady

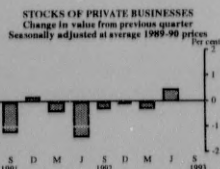
Preliminary estimates of private new capital expenditure for the September quarter 1993 indicate an increase of 1 per cent over the June quarter 1993 estimate in seasonally adjusted 1989-90 price terms. Expenditure on plant and equipment grew by 4 per cent whilst expenditure on buildings and structures decreased by 4 per cent. The series has now remained steady for the past 6 quarters except for the very strong December quarter 1992.

The latest estimate of expected new capital expenditure for 1993-94 is \$25 586 million, which is 6 per cent higher than the June quarter's revised third estimate for the same period. Despite the increase, this estimate is still 0.8 per cent less than the actual expenditure recorded for 1992-93.

For further information, order the publication *Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure, Preliminary (5625.0)*, or contact Bruce Jamieson on (06) 252 5611.

## Manufacturers' sales rise while stock levels remain steady

The value of stocks owned by private businesses at the end of September 1993, in seasonally adjusted constant price terms, is estimated to be marginally below the revised June 1993 estimate and 0.2 per cent higher than the September 1992 estimate.



**STOCKS HELD BY PRIVATE BUSINESSES AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 1993**  
Seasonally adjusted at 1989-90 prices

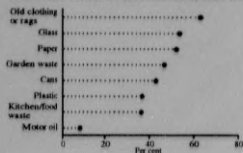
Industry	Stock level (\$ million)	Percentage change since	
		30 June 1993	30 September 1992
Mining	3 269	-4.9	-3.5
Manufacturing	21 957	-0.6	1.8
Wholesale	14 552	0.7	-1.7
Retail	13 997	1.4	1.6
Other	400	-6.5	-26.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>54 175</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>

In seasonally adjusted constant prices, sales by manufacturers in the September quarter 1993 are estimated to be 2 per cent above the June quarter 1993. There were rises in 8 of the 12 industry sub-groups. The largest increases were for transport equipment (up 14%), textiles (up 8%) and fabricated metal products (up 5%). The largest falls were for non-metallic mineral products (down 6%), other machinery and equipment (down 5%) and wood, wood products and furniture (down 4%).

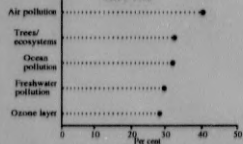
Manufacturers' expected sales in current price terms for 1993-94 are estimated to be \$156 595 million which is 4 per cent above the 1993-94 expectation reported in the June survey. If realised, this will represent an increase of 8 per cent over the actual sales for 1992-93.

For further information, order the publication *Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales and Expected Sales, Australia (5629.0)*, or contact Kevin Squair on (06) 252 5610.

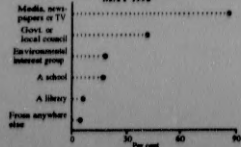
ITEMS RECYCLED BY HOUSEHOLDS, MAY 1992



ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF CONCERN, MAY 1992



ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION SOURCE, MAY 1992



## New survey shows high levels of concern on environment

At May 1992, an estimated 75 per cent of Australians were concerned about at least one specific environmental problem, with 40 per cent regarding air pollution as the main concern. In addition, 89 per cent believed that protecting the environment was at least as important as growth of the economy.

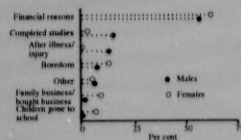
*Environmental Issues — People's Views and Practices* is a new publication which presents results from a household collection conducted as part of the monthly Labour Force Survey program in May 1992. It was the first Australian Bureau of Statistics Australia-wide household survey to collect information on topics related to the environment.

Information is provided on a range of issues such as how households manage their waste; usage of environmentally friendly products and packaging; people's concerns, attitudes and involvement regarding the environment; information sources; and usage of national parks. The data are presented using comprehensive tables and graphs with descriptive commentary in a 70-page report.

Some of the information to be found in *Environmental Issues — People's Views and Practices* follows.

- ☐ The most common recycled items were old clothing and rags, with 63 per cent of households recycling them, while motor oil recycling was undertaken by only 9 per cent of households.
- ☐ The principal recycling method used (by 53% of households) was central collection points.
- ☐ The main reason that households did not recycle more was that they did not have sufficient recyclable materials (19%).
- ☐ Recycled paper products were the environmentally friendly products most used by households (68%).
- ☐ 85 per cent of people were prepared to accept less packaging in products.
- ☐ 28 per cent of people had donated either time or money towards protection of the environment.
- ☐ Most people (90%) reported having received information about the environment, with the most common information source being the popular media (86%).
- ☐ Almost two-thirds of those who had obtained information said it had influenced their behaviour or attitude towards the environment.
- ☐ 63 per cent of Australians had visited a World Heritage Area, national or State park in the previous 12 months.

RE-ENTRANTS: MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN, MAY 1993



## Fewer people re-enter labour force

During the twelve months to May 1993, 114 400 persons had rejoined the labour force after spending at least twelve months away from it. Some 69 000 (60%) re-entrants were working in May 1993 and 45 400 were looking for work.

These results are from the 1993 Survey of Re-entrants to the Labour Force. Compared with the results of the previous survey conducted in 1990, there were 17 per cent fewer re-entrants in 1993 than in 1990. Over the same period, the proportion of re-entrants looking for work has increased from 24 per cent to 40 per cent.

(For the purposes of these surveys, re-entrants are those who had at some earlier time worked continuously for 12 months or more, but had been out of the workforce for at least 12 months.)

RE-ENTRANTS: MAIN ACTIVITY WHILE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1993  
(Per cent)

	Males	Females
Home duties/childcare	7.9	85.4
Attending an educational institution	33.3	9.3
Own illness/injury	27.2	1.6
Other	31.6	3.7

The main activity while out of the labour force for 85 per cent of female re-entrants was home duties/childcare. For male re-entrants, the most common main activity while out of the labour force was attending an educational institution (33%).

Other results from the survey showed that of the 114 400 re-entrants to the labour force:

- ☐ 80 per cent were females;
- ☐ 53 per cent of male re-entrants and 84 per cent of female re-entrants left their last job voluntarily;
- ☐ 31 per cent had worked in a previous job within the last 2 years and 23 per cent had worked in their last job 10 years or more ago;
- ☐ 26 per cent of re-entrants who had looked for work had no difficulties finding work (down from 60% in May 1990); and
- ☐ 73 per cent of those who were working were working part time (up from 68% in May 1990).

For both male and female re-entrants, 'financial reasons' was the most common reason for wanting to work again.

## Inquiries

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**Statistics Weekly**  
**2 December 1993**

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 14 December

#### December

- 1** International Investment Position, Australia, September Quarter 1993 (\$306.0; \$21.40)
- 2** Retail Trade, Australia, October 1993 (\$501.0; \$10.70)
- 6** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, September 1993 (6407.0; \$10.70)
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1993 (6408.0; \$8.20)
- 8** Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, September Quarter 1993, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.70)
- 9** The Labour Force, Australia, November 1993, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.70)
- 14** Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, September 1993 (5242.0; \$21.40)

### Selected releases: 24 to 30 November

#### General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., November 1993 (1303.2; \$10.70)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, December 1993 (1304.3; \$9.70)  
South Australian Economic Indicators, December 1993 (1307.4; \$10.50)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, November 1993 (1305.5; \$11.00)

#### Census of Population and Housing

1991 Census — Social Atlas, Sydney (2840.1; \$65.00) — *new issue*

#### Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., September 1993 (3401.0; \$6.60)  
Deaths, Qld, 1992 (3312.3; \$14.80)

#### Social statistics

Time Use Survey, Aust. — User's Guide, 1992 (4150.0; \$20.00)

#### National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk, September Qtr 1993 (5228.0; \$90.00)  
Balance of Payments, Aust., September Qtr 1993 (5302.0; \$21.40)  
Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Exports, Detailed Commodity Tables, 1992-93 (5436.0; \$64.30) — *final issue*

#### Labour statistics and Prices

The Labour Force, Aust., October 1993 (6203.0; \$16.30)  
Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Aust., July 1993 (6222.0; \$12.70)  
Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Aust., May 1993, Preliminary (6305.0; \$12.70)  
The Labour Force, NSW, August 1993 (6201.1; \$16.30)

#### Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., October 1993 (7215.0; \$8.00)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and construction

Building Approvals, Vic., October 1993 (8731.2; \$10.70)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., September 1993 (8741.2; \$10.70)  
Building Approvals, Qld, October 1993 (8731.3; \$10.70)  
Building Approvals and Dwelling Commencements: Small Area Statics, Qld, 1992-93 (8735.3; \$15.00)  
Manufacturing Industry, SA, 1990-91 (8221.4; \$16.30)  
Building Approvals, SA, October 1993 (8731.4; \$10.70)  
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, September 1993 (8741.4; \$10.70)  
Estimated Stocks of Dwellings, WA, June 1993 (8705.5; \$19.40)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	September qtr 93	\$m	n.a.	96 123	0.3	3.2
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	October 93	\$m	-1 184	-1 257	-17	4
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	203	158	44	98
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	20	-1	90	99
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 765	5 475	-3	8
Merchandise imports	"	"	-5 562	-5 317	-4	7
Net foreign debt (d)	30 June 93	\$m	172 325	n.a.	7.5	12.9
Net foreign liabilities (d)	"	"	222 984	n.a.	7.2	12.2
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices (e)	September 93	\$m	8 099	8 224	0.8	3.2
New capital expenditure at current prices	June qtr 93	"	6 570	6 308	-3.0	6.0
New motor vehicle registrations	October 93	no.	44 699	45 761	15.5	4.2
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	September qtr 93	\$m	36 435	35 751	1.6	8.3
Dwelling unit approvals	October 93	no.	14 622	14 915	0.2	6.7
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 021	1 971	-17.5	-0.7
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 93	"	6 023	6 044	-3.1	2.2
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	September qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	109.8	n.a.	0.5	2.2
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	September 93	1988-89 = 100.0	116.0	n.a.	0.5	1.8
Materials used in manufacturing industries	September 93	1984-85 = 100.0	128.1	n.a.	0.8	0.9
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons	October 93	'000	7 828.7	7 807.0	0.4	1.3
Participation rate †	"	%	62.8	63.1	0.4	0.1
Unemployment rate †	"	"	10.4	11.2	0.3	0.0
Job vacancies	August qtr 93	'000	39.0	37.3	18.0	38.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.15	1.19	-0.5	8.3
Estimated resident population	March qtr 93	million	17.6	n.a.	0.3	0.3
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	August 93	'000	240	257	5.5	20.8
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	September qtr 93	\$m	5 283	5 073	10.6	21.9
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults, ordinary time	August qtr 93	\$	602.40	n.a.	0.8	2.8
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	October 93	% per annum	4.80	n.a.	-1.0	-17.9
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	6.50	n.a.	-5.1	-26.6
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	"	per \$A	0.6603	n.a.	1	-8

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 1 December 1993. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 2 December 1993.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year									
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	
New capital expenditure*	March qtr 93	-0.1	4.7	-9.3	16.8	38.7	13.1	n.a.	n.a.	6.3	
Retail turnover (trend estimate)†	September 93	-1.2	5.3	3.0	5.0	11.1	1.2	n.a.	n.a.	3.0	
New motor vehicle registrations†	October 93	5.6	-3.5	20.8	-8.7	1.0	-7.9	-10.1	21.6	4.2	
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	October 93	-2.3	7.4	12.5	-11.0	5.3	-0.6	2.4	-2.1	6.7	
Value of total building work done	June qtr 93	-5.0	-6.1	18.6	13.0	31.3	-17.3	-6.7	-11.2	2.8	
Employed persons†	October 93	0.9	0.7	2.5	-0.8	4.6	-1.5	0.4	3.1	1.3	
Capital city consumer price index	June qtr 93	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.9	
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	August qtr 93	3.0	2.1	5.2	3.6	-0.1	2.7	2.6	3.4	2.8	
Population	December qtr 92	0.9	0.5	2.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.1	
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	June qtr 93	4.6	3.6	12.2	-0.6	8.3	6.0	13.3	-7.1	6.4	

\* Seasonally adjusted; † except for NT and ACT. ‡ Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 15). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.